

practically universal support among the current armed services and the veterans communities clearly show that this commonsense provision should be enacted.

It is common now for cellular phone contracts to require a contract term of up to 2 years. Along with these long contracts, there are often early termination fees of several hundred dollars. When National Guard members are called up to active duty or soldiers are transferred overseas or to a base that isn't covered by their current provider, they often face the prospect of either paying these significant fees or paying monthly fees for the remainder of the contract for a service they cannot use. While many servicemembers and their families have been able to work with telecommunications companies to eventually get the early termination fee canceled, the account suspended, or the fees reduced, they have enough to deal with after being called up that they should not have this added burden as well.

My legislation proposes that we bring these cellular phone contracts in line with what we have already done for residential and automotive leases in the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act—let the servicemembers cancel the contract. Under my proposal, if servicemembers are called up for more than 90 days, transferred overseas, or transferred to a U.S. duty station where they could not continue their service at the same rate, they could cancel their contract without a termination fee.

While my legislation helps to prevent servicemembers from being financially punished for volunteering to protect this country, I have also tried to make sure that the telecommunications providers are treated fairly as well. That is why I have included a provision that would allow the providers to request the return of cell phones provided as part of the contract. If the company requests the return under this provision, it would also have to give the servicemember the option of paying a prorated amount for the cell phone should he or she wish to keep it. Moreover, if the provider and servicemember mutually agree to suspend instead of terminate the contract, the bill makes sure that the reactivation fee is waived.

Several States, including Wisconsin, have already given servicemembers this protection. While these State laws are positive steps, a national law will make sure all servicemembers are afforded this protection and give the industry a baseline standard.

While this is a modest addition to the rights of servicemembers, it is important that we remove as many unfair burdens facing this country's men and women in uniform as we can. I hope my colleagues will share this view and quickly adopt this nonpartisan proposal.

Both of these two bills I introduced earlier in the week and that were considered in yesterday's Veteran's Affairs

Committee hearing have widespread support. I hope this support will translate into the Veterans Affairs Committee including them as part of its package of veterans' benefits legislation later this year. I again, want to thank Chairman AKAKA and the Veterans Affairs Committee for considering my bills to improve outreach activities and allow servicemembers to cancel cellular phone contracts in yesterday's hearing.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the aforementioned testimony of 1LT Melissa Inlow be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD OF FIRST LIEUTENANT MELISSA INLOW AT A HEARING ON WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY BILL 1174 ON APRIL 17, 2006

Thank you, chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak. The Department of Military Affairs and the Wisconsin National Guard is in support of Senate bill 1174. I am First Lieutenant Melissa Inlow, a Judge Advocate General Officer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. By granting servicemembers the right to terminate their cell phone contracts upon mobilization, you are ensuring further protections and peace of mind for our servicemembers. In August of 2005, I was brought on to provide legal assistance to our deployed servicemembers and their families. Since that time, about 3-5 percent of my time has been dedicated to assisting servicemembers in resolving issues with their cell phone service contracts. It's becoming increasingly difficult to get cell phone service providers to suspend the contract. Even with suspension the soldiers are still paying up to \$25 a month for a service they cannot reap the benefits of. These fees can accumulate to more than the termination fee which on average is \$200. I've found it very difficult and sometimes impossible to reach a live person and very difficult to reach a person with decision making authority. Each time I have had to call a cellular phone service provider, I have talked to a different customer service representative, and each has given me a different resolution to the cell phone issue. The companies are lacking significantly in internal consistency when it comes to resolving cell phone contract issues. It has been my experience that the customer service representatives of cell phone companies experience high turnover rate and are not aware of the wireless provider's policy on military suspension. It is extremely frustrating for me; I can only imagine the undue stress and strain it causes our deploying servicemembers and their families that are left behind to deal with these issues. This change will likely help ease the stress deployment places on our servicemembers allowing them to focus on their mission. I hope that the Federal Government will follow suit and amend the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act to incorporate a section on cell phone contracts.

#### OXFORD COUNTY VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, it is truly a solemn honor to join in recognizing these exceptional soldiers extraordinary enough to have worn our Nation's uniform as you gather for the

unveiling of the Oxford County Vietnam War Memorial

It is fitting and just that on this Armed Services Day, as we express our gratefulness to soldiers in service to our Nation, we commemorate those who saw service in Vietnam—especially the 37 Mainers who perished or are considered missing in action, whose revered names are remembered for all time on this Vietnam War Memorial. This tribute to their valor and their enduring dedication to duty reminds us that all the blessings of liberty we cherish today, the protection of our families, and the strength of our democracy represent our inheritance from generations past that we are obligated to safeguard and carry forth into the future.

This shining example of their contribution will serve not only to inspire—but also to heal. It will ensure that we always regard with the highest respect the inexpressible debt of gratitude we owe all soldiers and their families which we can never repay, but must never forget. And to faithfully and appropriately honor those who have fallen, we must nurture and protect the founding democratic principles we treasure, for which they so bravely made the ultimate sacrifice.

Every name etched on this wall corresponds to a unique story, but all are bound together, each to each, comrade to comrade, and soldier to soldier, by a universal, selfless devotion a commitment eloquently memorialized by President John Adams when he wrote, "if we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?"

Two servicemen, SGT James B. Bartlett, U.S. Army, 1st Infantry Division, Bethel and SSG John H. R. Brooks, U.S. Army, 129th Assault Helicopter, Peru, are both missing in action, and so this monument must also stand as a testament that we will honorably keep the faith with those who so valiantly kept their faith with us.

Each person we celebrate on this wall dignifies this memorial and makes it the sacred destination that it is intended to be, and that dignity is passed on to each of us when we pay rightful homage to the nobility of their deeds and the legacy of their love for this country.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

#### CAR AND CHILD SAFETY

Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, it is with deep regret that I share the following story of a constituent of mine. On April 24, Kristen McCrea, a woman from Amherst, NY, lost her daughter in a nontraffic, noncrash incident. Collett McCrea was only 22 months old. The incident occurred when Kristen left her daughter in their home briefly while backing her car out of the garage. Little did Kristen know that Collett had gotten out of the house and was behind

the vehicle. Kristen did not realize she had backed over Collett until her child came into view in front of the car.

Sadly, Collett's tragedy is not an isolated incident. In April 2007, the child safety advocacy group, Kids and Cars, has documented 17 fatal backover incidents across the country—from Rochester, NY, and South Bend, IN, to San Francisco and Dallas. Six more incidents of fatal frontovers were reported in April, as well as a brake-shift interlock fatality.

While all these tragedies occurred in the last month, the danger of nontraffic, noncrash incidents is not a new trend. On average, a child dies in the United States nearly every other day from a completely preventable accident—backed over by a driver who couldn't see behind his or her vehicle, strangled in a power window, or killed when an automobile inadvertently shifts into gear.

Since 2000, over 1,150 children have died in nontraffic, noncrash incidents, and this number has been steadily rising. The average age of victims is between 12 and 23 months. This year alone, according to the research by the child safety group, Kids and Cars, 261 children have been involved in 235 of these incidents, resulting in 17 fatalities. At least 21 children in New York State have been victims of these incidents since 1990.

It is time we stopped these tragedies from happening to more families. And that is why I introduced, the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act, a bill to improve the child safety features in new vehicles.

This bill is named in honor of a 2-year-old Long Island boy who was killed when his father accidentally backed over him in his driveway.

The Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act would make new passenger motor vehicles safer in three important ways. First, it requires a detection system to alert drivers to the presence of a child behind the vehicle. Second, it calls on the Secretary of Transportation to examine power windows technology that reverses panel direction when it detects an obstruction—preventing children from being trapped, injured, or killed. And, finally, the bill will require the vehicle service break to be engaged in order to prevent vehicles from unintentionally rolling away.

The bill also establishes a child safety information program administered by the Secretary of Transportation to collect nontraffic, noncrash incident data and disseminate information to parents about these hazards and ways to mitigate them.

This bill proves that with modest, cost-effective steps, we can prevent many tragic car-related accidents from occurring. Power window sensors, for example, cost around \$10 a window. Brakeshift interlocks are already standard in most passenger vehicles but will cost only \$5 where needed. Backover warning systems cost ap-

proximately \$300 a car, far cheaper than DVD and stereo systems. This inexpensive technology could save thousands of children's lives.

I fought long and hard into the last hours of the 109th Congress to get this bill through, and I am proud to be working with families, advocates, and many of my colleagues in the fight to get this bill passed.

I am proud to champion the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007 and urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Together, we can ensure that we have safer cars and safer kids across our country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### MURPHY OIL AND THE EL DORADO PROMISE PROGRAM

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to one of the top companies in the Nation and one that calls Arkansas home, Murphy Oil. In the May 2007 issue of Reader's Digest, Murphy Oil was named one of "America's 100 Best" in recognition of the El Dorado Promise scholarship program. Reader's Digest called the program the "Best Class Act" and nothing could be more true.

El Dorado Promise was created through a \$50 million gift from Murphy Oil Company. The advent of the program guarantees that all local high school graduates in the El Dorado community will be able to go to college. To be eligible for the program, students must, at minimum, graduate from El Dorado High School, live in the school district, and attend El Dorado High between the 9th and 12th grades. Depending on how long a student has lived in the school district, eligible students will receive tuition and mandatory fees assistance for up to 5 years and equal to the highest yearly rate charged by an Arkansas public university. Students must enroll in a community college or a 4-year university—public or private, in Arkansas or out of State—and maintain a 2.0 grade point average to remain eligible.

What a gift this is for this South Arkansas community and the families that live there. According to the Washington Post, it is one of the most generous scholarship programs in the Nation. When the program was announced in January at a school assembly, many in attendance were brought to tears.

I want to commend Claiborne Deming, the president and CEO of Murphy Oil, and the Murphy Oil board of directors for their vision and investment in the children of El Dorado. The commitment they are making to their community will provide wonderful opportunities for many Arkansas families. Murphy Oil's unselfish gift also will elevate the lives of so many young people and allow them to fully participate in our global economy.

Many colleges are offering to participate in the program, and El Dorado

Promise is already sparking interest as other communities attempt to find ways to offer similar programs. I am also hopeful that this scholarship program will set an example for other corporate citizens to make investments in their communities. It can go beyond dollars and cents, too. The donation of technology or even time in the form of mentoring programs can have a meaningful impact on students and communities in ways that cannot be measured.

Education is a national investment in our most precious resource, our children. The knowledge and training they receive will provide them with the tools they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. The Nation's ability to lead responsibility in the world, to effectively confront emerging threats, and to complete in the global economy will depend on providing all our future leaders with a quality education. The El Dorado Promise is a quality investment in those children who will, no doubt, reap Murphy Oil its greatest return for years to come.

##### TRIBUTE TO TROY BUCK

• Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, tonight the students who belong to the Future Farmers of America chapter at Centerpoint High School located between Amity and Glenwood, AR, are having their annual banquet. Some of these students will graduate next week and begin new chapters in their lives. While every teacher there has contributed to the education of each student I rise to today to honor one teacher there, Troy W. Buck.

Troy Buck is a native of Alpine, which is located in Clark County in the southwest part of my State. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and has spent 47 years in vocational agriculture impacting the lives of countless students along the way.

Troy Buck taught for 21 years at Hope High School and built the Hope FFA chapter into the largest in the State. He then moved to Amity, which merged with Glenwood in 1995 to create the Centerpoint School District. Today under Troy Buck's leadership, Centerpoint's FFA chapter has almost 300 students, making it one of the State's largest. It operates the only school-supported meats lab in the State and recently 98 acres was purchased for a school farm. In addition to his educational activities, Troy also farms 400 acres, most of which is in pasture or hay. He runs 100 head of cattle, operates 2 breeder hen houses, and produces Bermuda hay sold primarily to the racehorse market in nearby Hot Springs.

Troy Buck is also a volunteer in his community. The Rockefeller Foundation has recognized him as a leader in small communities. He helped establish and build a building to house an ambulance service in Amity. Troy has